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Agenda item 105

PROGRAMME PLANNING (PROGRAMMES 1, 2 AND 7)

Letter dated 5 November 1992 from the Leader of the Delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the First Committee of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee

I should be grateful if the letter addressed to you on 4 November 1992 by the delegations of

Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America

on agenda item 105 could be circulated as a document of the First Committee.

(Signed) M. C. S. WESTON

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Annex

AGENDA ITEM 105: PROGRAMME PLANNING

At the 2nd meeting of the First Committee, on 8 October 1992, you drew attention to the fact that the General Assembly had allocated to the Committee, in addition to the usual items on disarmament, international security and Antarctica, that part of item 105, Programme planning, which related to programmes 1, 2 and 7 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The undersigned Member States have considered these questions and their views are set forth below.

We have studied the documents drawn up by the Secretariat on each of the three programmes (A/47/6 (Prog.1), A/47/6 (Prog.2) and A/47/6 (Prog.7)) and have reviewed the relevant records of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), which considered these documents at its resumed thirty-second session from 31 August-18 September 1992.

We believe that it would be appropriate for the First Committee to decide to send a single, consensus message to the Fifth Committee in the following terms:

> "The First Committee supports the proposals of the Secretariat regarding proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as modified by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its resumed thirty-second session."

We would like to express particular support for the recommendation of CPC that in old paragraph 7.42 of document A/45/6/Rev.1 a reference should be added to resolution 46/36 L, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to establish and maintain at United Nations Headquarters a Register of Conventional Arms. Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18 in its operative paragraph 7 requests the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for the United Nations Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register. The Secretary-General, in his report entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era" (A/C.1/47/7, para. 36) assured the Committee that the Organization would do all that it could to make the Register an efficient and successful service for Member States.

We fully support the Secretary-General in his efforts to restructure the Organization and to make it more efficient. Within the context of these efforts and within existing overall resource levels of the Organization, we trust that the reorganized Office for Disarmament Affairs will be adequately staffed to permit it not only to develop and operate the Register and the disarmament database but also to carry out efficiently its other priority tasks in the field of disarmament. We look forward to the Secretary-General's proposals in this respect in the draft programme budget for the next biennium. In the short term, we trust that he will make appropriate use of the flexibility at his disposal.